

## ABSTRACT

There is provided a communication system (1) such as an ATM-PON including a station-side unit (2) having  
5 a point-to-multipoint message generating unit (2A) and a group designation message generating unit (2B) and subscriber-side units (4-1 to 4-N: N is a natural number) each having a point-to-multipoint message processing unit (4A) and a state control unit (4B). The station-side unit  
10 (2) sends a group designating message to some of the subscriber-side units (4-i: i=1 to N), thereby to designate some of the plurality of the subscriber-side units as a component constituting a group of units which are to receive a point-to-multipoint message, and only the  
15 subscriber-side units (4-i) controls to bring the reception and the processing on the point-to-multipoint message to a valid status. With this arrangement, only specified components constituting a group of units can be made to receive the point-to-multipoint message. Thus,  
20 it becomes possible to avoid unexpected erroneous operation which can be caused if information specific to a vendor of some of the subscriber-side units (4-i) is sent to all of the subscriber-side units. Moreover, it becomes possible to provide information to the specified  
25 components constituting a group of units within a very short period of time.